(d) and (e) MTNL Delhi is proposing to have alternate long distance media. Agreements with other National Long Distance operators are being signed.

Status of Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojana

1662. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the status of Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Yojana in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) how far it has succeeded in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) There are 180 Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras (PSSKs) in Andhra Pradesh as on 15.11.2002. Out of them, 11 (eleven) PSSKs are not physically functioning as the nominated PSSK Agents are not attending to their duties and their Gram Panchayats also not showing much interest in operations of PSSKs. The fixed allowances were also not drawn for these 11 PSSKs. A target of opening of 30 new PSSKs in Andhra Pradesh during the current year has been achieved.

(b) 93.88% of the total PSSKs are rendering basic service to the people in the State. This has resulted in sale of postal stamps and stationery worth Rs. 137057/- per month on an average.

Express parcel post service in A.P.

1663. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the status of express Parcel Post Service in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) how many post offices are providing this service in the State with district-wise details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government have taken to popularise the service in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SANJAY PASWAN): (a) The